Let Your Light Shine Mosaic

Enlarge the template/grid above by four to eight times. The 12 squares represent the 12 months of study. The group will use this template to create a mosaic.

Ask: How do you or can you reflect God’s light as a unit?

• As a group, pick out a word or words from the program that best reflect what was learned during that month.
• Using scissors or pinking shears, cut out a paper heart and write the word on the heart.
• Using a glue stick or tape, add the heart to the template square for that month.
• Continue to build your mosaic throughout the year. At the end of the program year, post your mosaic on the wall for inspiration and challenge.
LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE MOSAIC
Over the course of the monthly and special programs, the group will work together to create a mosaic that answers the question: How do you or can you reflect God’s light as a unit? See the previous pages for the template and instructions.

BIBLE STUDY: INSPIRE AND IGNITE
Each program includes a Bible study that explores passages through the prism of light. Time for reflection and discussion are provided through small circles.

BRIDGE: INFLUENCE AND SHINE
This section offers activities that serve as a bridge and help us connect the dots between the Bible study and call to action.

ACT: IMPACT AND SHARE GOD’S LIGHT
Here you are invited to engage in action and advocacy with United Methodist Women. You can use the opportunities and strategies suggested here, or develop your own strategies for ongoing work.

PRAYERS, HYMNS AND CLOSING LITANIES
The programs include prayers and hymns that are related to the current month’s Bible study theme and offer an opportunity for centering and community worship. The closing of each program is a communal prayer.

APPENDIX
This section consists of handouts for some of the activities in the programs, making it easy for the leaders to photocopy and distribute them.

BUILD YOUR PROGRAM
You are encouraged to do the full program to learn and gain a good understanding of each topic. The full program will take 45 minutes to an hour. The approximate time allotted for key segments is indicated after the segment headings. However, if you have less than an hour, use the Build Your Own Program feature in the Preparation section of each program to note the segments you want to use and those that would be most helpful for your group.

Special Programs
A Pledge to Mission and A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial programs are included in the Program Book. They are also available for download from the United Methodist Women website: unitedmethodistwomen.org.

Allow God’s light to break through your lives as you engage and mobilize for justice in the world.
Let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven.

(Matthew 5:16; CEB)
SPECIAL PROGRAMS
PLEDGE TO MISSION
SERVICE 2020
WOMEN IN STRENGTH

By Christi Campos*

OBJECTIVE
That United Methodist Women members in their units, districts and conferences will have an opportunity to learn about the power of Mission Giving and shine a light on issues affecting women, children and youth through their Pledge to Mission.
Preparation

Before the service, read through the program, including the response articles, Bible verses and words to the songs. Digest these in moments of private prayer and meditation. We recommend that you also test the activities ahead of time so you can easily walk participants through the experiences. Enlist the help of a piano player and song leader for the service, if possible. If accompaniment is not available and your group does not feel comfortable singing the songs a cappella, you may want to read the song lyrics together.

MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

- United Methodist Women Bible (NRSV) or Common English Bible (CEB)
- *The Faith We Sing* hymnal and *The United Methodist Hymnal*
- Pledge to Mission cards, found online at unitedmethodistwomen.org/donate/resources
- Basket to collect pledge cards
- Photocopies of the “Stronger Together” instructions for each activity center (see Appendix D)
  - Large stack of newspapers
  - Stack of 8.5 x 11-inch recycled paper
  - Weights, rocks or bricks
  - Box of popsicle sticks
  - Basketball or other large ball
- Battery-operated tea lights, one for each participant and leader
  - Christ candle
- February 2018 issue of *response*
- July/August 2018 issue of *response* (optional)
- Photocopies of the scripture readings and litanies, enough for each of the readers
  - Computer/laptop, internet access, projector and screen

PARTICIPANTS

Ask individual women ahead of time to volunteer for the following roles:

- Read the scriptures.
- Read the litany (three readers are needed).
ROOM SETUP

WORSHIP CENTER
Decorate the worship center as you see fit, but include the Bible, basket, tea lights and the pre-lit Christ candle.

ACTIVITY CENTERS
Set up the following three “Stronger Together” activity centers, spaced throughout the room. Include copies of the handout with instructions (see Appendix D) in each center.
1. An area for the stack of newspapers
2. A table for the stack of recycled paper and weights, bricks or rocks
3. A table for the popsicle sticks and large ball

HANDOUTS
At each chair have a pledge card and copies of the litanies and readings. Divide up the readings so that as many women as possible can participate.

Gathering

OPENING PRAYER (UNISON)
Creator and Most Loving God, we know you are present with us in this place. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit to guide each heart and hand as we learn about and pledge to support the work you have called us to do. Amen.

WELCOME LITANY

Leader: We gather together as a group of strong, Christian women.
All: We gather together in strength.

Leader: For 150 years United Methodist Women and our predecessor organizations have worked together to put faith, hope and love into action.
All: We are women of purpose.
Leader: Faced with ever-increasing social concerns, injustices and inequalities, the strength for our continued work comes from God.
All: We are women of faith. We are women in mission.
SING
“We Are One in Mission,” The Faith We Sing, no. 2243

SCRIPTURE READING
PHILIPPIANS 4:13

LITANY

Leader: We are women of strength.

All: We are women in strength.

Reader 1: The Bible is full of strong women like Sarah, Ruth, Hannah and Deborah. When faced with difficult situations, these women were confident in their beliefs. Their examples encourage us today to be courageous.

Reader 2: Throughout history strong women have stepped out in faith. Amanda Smith desired only to serve her God. As a former slave, she was conscious of the problems facing those sharing her race and sex. She became an internationally known evangelist in the late 1800s, helping to expand the accepted role of women in both the African Methodist Episcopal and Methodist Churches.

Reader 3: Strong in her faith, Dr. Clara Swain answered the call and was sent as a missionary to India in 1869. By the end of her first year in India, Clara had treated more than 1,025 patients. The women’s hospital and medical school that Clara opened was the first of its kind in all of Asia and is still in operation today.

Leader: The history of United Methodist Women and our predecessor organizations are full of strong women who stepped out in faith. As we pause for a few moments to reflect on these women, we ask you to spontaneously share out loud the names of other women throughout history, in United Methodist Women, or in your life who are examples of strong, faith-filled women of action.

(Pause to allow time for names to be shared.)

All: God, we thank you for these women and your guidance in their lives and ours. Amen

Leader: Individually we are all women of strength, strong in our faith and in our passion to fulfill our purpose. Collectively we are women in strength. As United Methodist Women members we work together to put faith, hope and love into action for women, children and youth.
ACTIVITY: STRONGER TOGETHER (15 MINUTES)
Invite everyone to break into small groups and go to one of the four activity centers where they will find copies of the instructions and materials for the activity. Allow time for everyone to visit each center (approximately five minutes for each center, depending on the group size).

After all members have had time to participate in the activity centers, ask the group to reassemble. Invite discussion on their experiences.

Ask if they saw a connection to United Methodist Women mission work in the activities. Suggest that by working together as women in strength through Christ we can accomplish great things that we could not do alone.

Just as the individual sheets of newspaper piled together become impossible to tear, discuss how United Methodist Women working together create a force against social injustice and inequality that cannot be torn apart.

Discuss how the more sheets of paper that were put together and the teamwork it took to not bend the paper under the weights could be an example of how United Methodist Women, working together, can withstand the weight of any social ill and stand up to positively impact it.

Finally, discuss how many sticks it took to balance the ball and invite the participants to liken that experience to that of United Methodist Women working together in strength to provide support to women, children and youth in our communities and throughout the world.

READINGS AND RESPONSES
Leader: The Romeo United Methodist Women’s unit in Romeo, Michigan, has, to date, collected five truckloads of diapers, paper towels, clothing, etc. for a local shelter for abused women and children. They also make items for the Northwest Haiti Christian Mission in Môle-Saint-Nicolas, Haiti, among many other mission outreach activities.3

Include an uplifting report here on the mission and outreach work of your own unit, district or conference.

All: In our local communities and throughout the world, United Methodist Women in strength are helping women in need.

Leader: United Methodist Women supports the empowerment of women, children and youth. We fight for economic and climate justice. We work for a living wage for all, to improve maternal and child health, to disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline and much more. Our tasks are many.

All: Together in Christ we work to meet the task before us.
SCRIPTURE READING
ISAIAH 40:31

LITANY
Putting Our Strength into Action

Reader 1: Mission Giving makes mission happen. In the United States, Mission Giving currently provides support to 93 United Methodist Women–related National Mission Institutions and colleges, as well as other U.S. ministries that provide spiritual growth programs, membership nurture and opportunities for leadership development, mission education and service and advocacy.

Reader 2: Internationally, United Methodist Women annually supports more than 150 programs, carried out by 116 organizations in more than 110 countries. Mission Giving also provides scholarships to more than 73 students enrolled in institutions of higher education in 18 countries.

Reader 3: United Methodist Women supports eight regional missionaries. Their work reaches 49 countries and the Caribbean. United Methodist Women also provides training, oversight and support for the Office of Deaconess and Home Missioner, which currently consists of nearly 200 active laypeople working in ministries of love, justice and service throughout our country and the world.

All: Our mission dollars are at work.


Dim the lights but leave enough light so that all are still able to see to read and write.

SING
“We Are Called,” The Faith We Sing, no. 2172

PAUSE AND REFLECT

Leader: As women in strength, we know the power of working together in mission as United Methodist Women members. On your seats is a Pledge to Mission card. We ask you to take a few minutes to prayerfully consider your Pledge to Mission and, if possible, increase this year’s gift. All pledges and gifts are appreciated. When you have completed your card, please place it in the basket on the worship center and take a tea light with you, turning it on as you leave the Christ candle as a symbol of the ways in which we carry the healing light of Christ into the world.

If possible, have some music playing in the background. Allow enough time for all to remain in prayer and reflection.
CLOSING PRAYER
Loving God, we are grateful that you give us strength as members of United Methodist Women to be in mission with women, children and youth. Keep us ever directed to your will and continue to empower us with your Spirit. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

Leader: Thank you for participating in this pledge service. Just as the light grew in this room as we all took up our tea lights, let us build up our mission work. Before we close, please join me in singing the first verse of “This Little Light of Mine.” I will start, then ask each of our readers to join in, and then have the chorus build until all of us are singing together as women in strength.

SING WITH JOY
“This Little Light of Mine,” The United Methodist Hymnal, no. 585

Repeat the first verse until all have joined in the singing.

*Christi Campos is the executive for Development and Donor Relations at United Methodist Women’s National Office. Christi has more than 25 years of experience working for social service agencies in the Kansas City metropolitan area. She is from the Missouri Conference, where she has served as Kansas City North District president, conference vice-president and nominations chair, South Central Jurisdiction Nominating Committee and as a certified lay speaker. She is also in the Deaconess Candidacy Program and will be consecrated in 2020.

Endnotes
1. Elaine Magalis, Conduct Becoming to a Woman: Bolted Doors and Burgeoning Missions (New York: Women’s Division, General Board of Global Ministries, 2003), 144.
APPENDIX
## Appendix A

**Handout: Mission Dollars by the Minute: United Methodist Women Mission Giving**

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Credit: unitedmethodistwomen.org/missionminute
Appendix D

Handout: Stronger Together Activity

Activity #1: Uses the stack of newspapers. Start with a small pile of newspapers that you can easily tear with your hands, and then keep adding to the pile until you are unable to tear the papers by hand. Keep track of how many papers it took before the stack was impossible to tear.

Activity #2: Uses the stack of recycled paper and weights, bricks or rocks. One person holds a piece of 8½ by 11-inch paper in midair, with one hand on each end of the paper, while someone else puts a weight such as a brick or rock in the middle of the paper. The rock will, of course, tear or significantly bend the paper. Continue adding additional sheets of paper to the pile and repeating the exercise; you’ll notice that the more paper you add, the less likely the paper will be to tear and/or the less significant the bend in the paper.

Be sure to do this activity over a table so that falling weights don’t cause injury. And be prepared to report back on how your group worked together to accomplish this activity.

Activity #3: Uses the popsicle sticks and large basketball or other large ball. Use the popsicle sticks to build a structure strong enough to balance the ball without it rolling off the table. Be prepared to report back on how many sticks it took to provide the needed support.

Appendix E

Regional Missionary Story Cards

Photocopy pages 127–130 and cut out the cards along the dotted lines. You will need one set of cards for each table. If the group is large, you can assign one card to each small group of two or three women; if it’s small you can assign the cards to individual women. (It’s okay if some of the groups or individuals review the same story.)